Energy Secretary. The following documents were signed at the end of the visit:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India (Ministry of Power) and the Government of U.S.A. (Department of Energy) to hold periodic consultations between the two Governments.

2. A Joint Statement of Intent between the Ministry of Power of the Republic of Indta and the Department of Energy of the United States of America to cooperate in the field of energy efficiency.

3. A Joint Statement of Intent between the Ministry of Coal of the Republic of India and the Department of Energy of the United States of America to cooperate in the field or ritenergy energy.

4. A Joint Statement of Intent between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources of the Republic of India and the Department of Energy of the United States of America to cooperate in the field of renewable energy.

5. A joint Statement of Intent between the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Republic of India and Department of Energy of the United States of America to cooperate in Environment Enhancing Energy Technologies.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

Rural Electrification in Orissa

1057. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. has been making provision of electricity in the rural areas expeditiously;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of villages electrified by REC during last three years;

(c) the target set for electrification in Orissa by the end of Eighth Plan; and

(d) the actual number of villages in Orissa brought under electrification so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides financial assistance to State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Electricity Departments for rural electrification works. The responsibility for provtding electricity in the rural areas, however, rests with the SEBs/State Power Departments.

(b) The number of villages electrified during the last three years with financial assistance from REC are given below:—

1.	Assam	11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149
3.	Bihar	715
4.	J & K	22
5.	Madhya Pradesh	3212
6.	Manipur	281
7.	Meghalaya	136
8	Mizoram	160
9.	Orissa	1437
10.	Rajasthan	2254
11.	Tripura	435
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2124
13.	West Bengal	1204
	TOTAL	12143

(c) The targets for rural electrification programme are fixed by the Planning Commission on an annual basis. Durtng the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan, 1315 villages have been targeted for electrification in Orissa.

(d) As per 1971 Census, 32,916 villages have been electrified in Orissa by the end of June, 1994.

एन०टी०पी०सी० और राज्य बिजली बोर्डों के बीच विवाद

1058. **श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल :**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या **विद्युत मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक राज्यों के बिजली बोर्डों और एन०टी०पी०सी० के बीच गंभीर विवाद पैदा हो जाने के कारण संपूर्ण उत्तर भारत में अभूतपूर्व विद्युत संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं जो उक्त विवाद में शामिल हैं और इस विवाद का मुख्य कारण क्या है और इन दो पक्षों के विवाद से उत्पन्न होने वाली परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार ने कोई तात्कालिक और प्रभावी कदम उठाए हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होते।

Hike in Power Tariff

1059. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a steep hike in power tariff is imminent as has been hinted by him while recently addressing Joint Indo-US Commission on energy; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The tariff for sale of electricity to the different sectors of consumers is fixed by the SEBs themselves, with the approval of the State Governments concerned. The Power Ministers' Conference held in January, 1993 has adopted an Action Plan which provides for periodical revision of all tariffs, taking into account the increased cost of production and supply.

Capacity Utilisation in Thermal and Hydel Power Plants

1060. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set and achievements made in both Thermal and Hydel power Plants during the last three years;

(b) what are the reasons for low capacity utilisation; and

(c) the steps taken to improve Plant Load Factor (PLF) by State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Energy Generation Targets vis-a-vis actual generation from thermal and hydel power stat-